

*Library*

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORTS

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

*and the*

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1953

MINISTERS  
LIBRARY



# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1953

---

## *Medical Officer of Health :*

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.  
(Also Divisional M.O. for North Herts.)

## *Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

NORMAN HOLT, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.  
Certs.R.San.Inst. (1. Meat and Foods 2. Smoke.)

## *Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

TREVOR HUBERT CUTLER, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.  
Certs.R.San.Inst. (1. Meat and Foods 2. Smoke.)

FRANK RUMMENS, M.S.I.A.  
Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods.)

## *Clerical Staff :*

FRANCIS SYDNEY BAILEY.  
FREDERICK VALENTINE (Up to 7th November, 1953).  
MISS P. FOWLER (As from 27th July, 1953).

---

## *Offices :*

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Divisional Health Officer, 12, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 1757.

### SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

Council Offices, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 1070.

# HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953

---

*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit the above report on the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 1/54.

For the first time for a long number of years, probably for more than a century, the registered deaths for the town of Hitchin (260) are found to exceed in number the total live births (246). The Registrar General supplies for the district a 'local comparability factor (for deaths)' of 0.88 which indicates a considerable higher-than-average age distribution of local population. From the cumulative effects of the low annual live-births around twenty-five years ago such a phenomenon will become increasingly frequent in the local statistics of older established towns during the next ten years, and is expected nationally for England and Wales as the average national population continues slowly to age.

Since there was a natural reduction of the static local population during the years the increase in estimated population (of 130) must be due to inward migration. The general health of the town continued good and serious infectious disease was again low in incidence.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every assistance from your Council and its chief officers; particularly from Mr. N. Holt, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the attached sanitary report.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER,  
*District Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1954.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,850
Home population—Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1953 ... ..	20,110
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1954 ... ..	5,739
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1954 ... ..	£153,477
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate for 1954/55 ... ..	£622

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR  
THE YEAR 1953

<u>LIVE BIRTHS :</u>		TOTALS	Male	Female	HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rates for England and Wales
Legitimate	...	234	122	112		
Illegitimate	...	12	8	4		
All	...	246	130	116		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..					12.2	15.5
<u>STILL BIRTHS :</u>						
Legitimate	...	5	1	4		
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—		
All	...	5	1	4		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..					19.9	22.4
<u>DEATHS :</u>						
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..					12.4	11.4
<u>DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :</u>						
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..					24.4	26.8
Rate for Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ... ..					17.1	
Rate for Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ... ..					166.7	
Actual number of such deaths (a) under 4 weeks and (b) total under 1 year						
Legitimate			3			4
Illegitimate			1			2
All			4			6

Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	51
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—

#### COMMENT ON LOCAL VITAL STATISTICS

The estimate by the Registrar General of local population this year shows a rise of 130 on the mid-1952 estimate.

Still-birth and infant mortality rates for the district continue favourable.

Only four deaths are finally allocated to Tuberculosis (all forms).

Of topical interest is the sex distribution of the high figure of 12 local deaths registered from malignant neoplasm of lung or bronchus, 11 occurring in males as against one female.

#### SECTION B.

##### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

These are unchanged.

#### SECTIONS C — E.

##### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

#### SECTION F.

##### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1953 totals of notified cases of infectious disease (after correction) were : Measles 349, Whooping Cough 70, Scarlet Fever 13, Acute Pneumonia 8, Dysentery 9, Puerperal Pyrexia 11, Meningococcal infection 1, Infectious hepatitis 3, and Food poisoning 3.

Measles was markedly epidemic in the first quarter of the year with Whooping Cough moderately frequent within first and second quarters. Scarlet Fever cases were few in number and scattered both in location and in time, the illness continuing of mild severity and confined mainly to infant school age.

Dysentery cases were mainly institutional in distribution and preventive action was successful in limiting spread.

Two cases (in one household) of food poisoning were due to infected home-cooked chicken improperly stored, the actual organism not being identified. In another household infection by

Salm. typhi murium covered one clinical (notified) case and one subclinical case, the presumptive vehicle being cooked-meat manufactured locally. In the premises where such product was prepared one worker was detected as a temporary carrier and preventive action taken. (Note : Another household in the Rural District was affected at the same date from the same presumptive vehicle.)

No case of poliomyelitis was confirmed within the Urban District during the year though one death (adult male) was registered in a case dating from the last quarter of 1952.

For yet another year no case of diphtheria was notified in the district. Despite its long continued absence the offer of infant protection by immunisation continues to be accepted by a large majority of parents.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1953

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Res- piratory		Non-Res- piratory		Res- piratory		Non-Res- piratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	5(3)	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	3	4(2)	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45 ...	1	3(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	10(3)	12(3)	1	—	2	2	—	—
Deaths allocated by the Registrar-General after final transfers.					2	2	—	—

*Note :* Figures for new cases include inward transfers from other areas, which figure is also indicated separately in brackets.

Total notifications of pulmonary disease are almost identical with the figure for 1952, while for non-respiratory cases the single

notification indicates the continued decline in this type of disease. It is worth noting that all cows' milk sold within the district has for some time been either pasteurised or designated.

The total of deaths (1) was identical with the figure for 1952; two are seen to have been elderly male cases.

V. R. WALKER.

*District Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1954.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1953

---

*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending December 31st, 1953.

The execution of major housing repairs continues to be a problem due to low rentals and it will be interesting to note the effect on this question of the new Housing Repairs and Rents Bill when it becomes law in the next few months. During the year the first houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders since 1939.

The number of moveable dwellings stationed on different sites in the district under licence is still on the increase, showing that there is still a big demand for this type of temporary dwelling due to the shortage of permanent houses. All the sites are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

The number of pigs slaughtered at the Bacon Factory continues to increase and meat inspection duties are correspondingly requiring more time. It will be noted that the tonnage of meat, etc., condemned has decreased slightly despite the increase in the animals slaughtered, which seems to indicate, as do previous years, that there is a gradual improvement in the general health of the pig population.

Much valuable work was again executed in connection with the hygiene of food premises and it is hoped that further advances will be made in this field when the new Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill becomes law.

I again express my thanks to the Additional Sanitary Inspectors and staff for their conscientious assistance, and to all the Council's officials for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOLT.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

June, 1954.

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1953.

## NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

### GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	730
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse and Salvage Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	606
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	246
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Petroleum Installations	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Employment Agencies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,128

### HOUSING

#### *Under Public Health Acts—*

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	391
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	1,509

#### *Under Housing Acts—*

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	105
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	483

#### *Overcrowding—*

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	7
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	10

#### *Verminous Premises—*

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	17
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	39

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries in cases of I.D. ... ..	24
Visits re Disinfection ... ..	26
Visits in connection with Food Poisoning ... ..	38

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION :

### *Inspection of Meat—*

Visits to Slaughterhouses ... ..	307
Visits to Shops and Stalls ... ..	32

### *Food Inspection—*

Visits to shops and stalls ... ..	117
-----------------------------------	-----

### *Visits to—*

Butchers ... ..	157
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	38
Fish Friers ... ..	23
Grocers ... ..	217
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... ..	40
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	39
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	42
Bakehouses ... ..	84
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	87
Market Stalls ... ..	85
Restaurants, Canteens, etc. ... ..	261
Licensed Premises ... ..	110
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts ... ..	21

### *Visits in Connection with Sampling (Bacteriological)—*

Milk ... ..	161
Ice Cream ... ..	255
Sterilisation of cafe utensils ... ..	55
Miscellaneous Food Visits ... ..	195

## NOTICES SERVED

Number of Informal Notices Served ... ..	690
Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	709
Number of Statutory Notices Served ... ..	47
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	72

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS HOUSES, ETC.

Roofs repaired ... ..	78
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired ... ..	24
Chimney pots provided ... ..	25

Flashings repaired or replaced ... ..	24
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed ... ..	47
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	27
Walls pointed or repaired ... ..	40
Walls cement rendered ... ..	12
Windows repaired ... ..	58
Windows replaced ... ..	10
New window sashcords provided ... ..	58
New window fasteners provided ... ..	11
Windows made to open ... ..	3
Doors repaired (external) ... ..	5
Doors repaired (internal) ... ..	2
Door fasteners repaired or replaced ... ..	1
Door steps provided or repaired ... ..	3
New yard surfaces provided ... ..	5
Yard surfaced repaired or relaid ... ..	15
Ceilings where plaster, etc., repaired or replaced ...	28
Ceilings cleansed ... ..	23
Rooms where wall plaster, etc., repaired or replaced ...	29
Rooms where walls cleansed ... ..	26
Floors relaid or repaired ... ..	13
Rooms where skirting board repaired or replaced ...	5
Firegrates repaired ... ..	10
New firegrates provided ... ..	4
Ranges repaired ... ..	8
Hearths repaired or replaced ... ..	1
Chimney flues repaired ... ..	6
Staircases repaired ... ..	4
Dangerous structures demolished ... ..	13
Rooms where lighting improved ... ..	1
Rooms where ventilation improved ... ..	2
Rooms where dampness remedied ... ..	28
New sinks provided ... ..	15
Trapped sink waste pipes provided ... ..	21
Sink waste pipes repaired ... ..	5
New washbasins provided ... ..	15
Trapped washbasin waste pipes provided ... ..	21
Washbasin waste pipes repaired ... ..	1
New baths provided ... ..	13
Trapped bath waste pipes provided ... ..	12
New washing boilers provided ... ..	2
Washing boilers repaired ... ..	12
Hot water systems repaired ... ..	3
Houses where water service pipes repaired ... ..	3
Houses where water supply provided inside the house ...	1
Rainwater butts provided ... ..	12
Houses painted externally ... ..	12
Other defects remedied ... ..	15

### *Drainage—*

New drains constructed	...	...	...	...	...	55
Old drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	38
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	58
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	47
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	66
Self-cleansing gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	36
Soil pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
Vent pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fresh air inlets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1

### *Water closets—*

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s where walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
New basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	54
W.C.'s where connections repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	43
New flush pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	33
W.C.'s provided with a sufficient supply of water	...	...	...	...	...	10
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Door fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
W.C. seats repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	35
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
W.C.'s ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s decorated	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s where lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	1

### **FACTORIES AND SHOPS** (*including Licensed Premises*)—

#### *Sanitary Accommodation—*

Insufficient sanitary accommodation remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4
Separate sanitary conveniences for sexes provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Existing sanitary accommodation reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of new W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of W.C.'s where lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of W.C.'s where permanent means of ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of W.C.'s where intervening ventilated space provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of sanitary conveniences decorated	...	...	...	...	...	38
Number of new glazed urinals fixed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of new cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of new wash-hand basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	127

#### **MISCELLANEOUS—**

New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	414
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	19

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1 (i) *Water.*

With the exception of a few outlying houses, which have satisfactory private water supplies, Hitchin obtains water from a piped supply controlled by the Council. I am indebted to Mr. S. Davey, Water Engineer, for the following information :

Water is obtained from three wells, Well Head and Temple End, situated at the village of Charlton within the Urban District, and Oughton Head situated on the boundary of Pirton just outside the Urban District. At the present time the safe yield from the three wells gives a margin over requirements and no restrictions are necessary. Expansion for the next few years can easily be coped with. The subsoil of the district is mainly chalk.

The Council supply water in bulk to the Hitchin Rural District Council for the areas of Ickleford and Cadwell and also give emergency supplies for the St. Ippolytts and Pirton areas when required.

The highest standard of purity has been maintained throughout the year. Samples of the raw and treated water have been regularly sent to the Council's analysts in London. Samples of the water as delivered to the consumer have also been regularly sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton. In all cases the reports have been satisfactory. The total number of samples taken during the year are as follows : *Raw Water* : Eighty-six samples for bacteriological and 8 samples for chemical examination.

*Treated Water* : Eighty-seven samples for bacteriological examination.

The water from Well Head and Temple End wells is chlorinated at the Pumping Station, Queen Street, and after a minimum of six hours contact is dechlorinated before being pumped into supply. The water from Oughton Head well is chlorinated and after a contact time of twenty minutes a residual of .15 p.p.m. is maintained.

The water from the wells being hard no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the houses is approximately 5,807, serving approximately 19,163 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains by means of stand-pipes is approximately 161, serving approximately 532 persons. In the case of 42 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage :*

The only extensions to the sewers during the year were on the new Westmill housing estate.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

No action taken.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

With the exception of 27 of the 32 houses comprising the main village of Charlton, and a few outlying premises, the whole of the district is provided with waterclosets, which, excluding a few waterclosets discharging into cesspools, are connected to the Council's sewers. The 27 houses mentioned above are provided with pail closets.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

A regular weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year despite continuing labour difficulties. Only at Bank holiday periods was it necessary to break the regularity of collection. House and trade refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. This method of tipping was made easier during the past year by the use of a muledozer, fitted with rotaped tracks. This machine not only facilitated quicker consolidation and covering but enabled one driver to perform the work previously executed by three workmen. During the year restrictions on the sale of wastepaper were lifted by the board mills and the Council are now able to dispose of all salvaged wastepaper collected along with house refuse.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.* See Pages 8, 9, 10 and 11.

(iv) *Shops and Offices.*

In the case of shops 4 additional sanitary conveniences were constructed and 27 sanitary conveniences were improved during the year, 3 shops were decorated and 4 shops were provided with washing facilities at the request of the Department.

Regarding offices, 2 additional sanitary conveniences and 1 urinal were constructed and 3 sanitary conveniences were improved. Washing facilities were provided at one office.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

At December 31st, 1953, there were six sites in the area where moveable dwellings were stationed under licence of the Council.

1. A site, licensed to stand 19 mobile trailer caravans, provided with waterclosets, main drainage, bathrooms and laundry. Water and electricity are laid on into each caravan.



2. Three sites, licensed to stand 1, 2, and 6 mobile trailer caravans respectively, provided with main drainage and water supply.
3. Two sites, licensed to stand 1 and 2 mobile trailer caravans respectively, provided with a main water supply, and a readily accessible drainage system.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

Several smoke observations of factory chimneys were made during the year, special attention being given to four particular chimneys. Advisory visits were made to the four boiler plants concerned and improvements have been effected as follows :

1. One boiler plant has been completely replaced and at the present time is using smokeless fuel.
2. One boiler plant has recently been installed with instruments (e.g. draught gauges and c.o.2 recorder) to assist the efficiency of the boilers and consequently reduce black smoke emission.
3. One firm, using mechanical stokers, have been advised to dispense with periodic hand firing of their boilers which have been carried out to supplement the mechanical stokers when peak steam demands occurred.
4. One firm is considering the early installation of an additional boiler together with the fitting of smoke eliminator doors to the two boilers.

(vii) *Swimming Baths.*

There are two swimming baths in the district, (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main pool and a children's pool, and (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School.

Eighty samples of water in the two pools at the Council's bath were taken, 40 being submitted to a bacteriological examination and 40 to a residual chlorine test. One sample taken from the outlet end of the children's pool and submitted to a bacteriological examination was the only sample reported upon as unsatisfactory.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath during the year.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (a) Council houses found to be infested ... | ... | 1 |
| (b) Other houses found to be infested ...   | ... | 6 |

All the infested houses were disinfested, a service which the Council carried out free of cost.



#### 4. *Schools.*

During 1953 an inspection of school premises was undertaken using the Standards for School Premises Regulations 1951 as a guide. Five of the schools were found to have insufficient or unsuitable sanitary accommodation and a schedule of works was sent to the Education Officer of the Herts. County Council for attention.

In the case of one school, major improvements were carried out to the sanitary accommodation to bring the premises to the standard required by the above Regulations.

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING

##### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	496
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,992
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	105
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	105
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	14
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ...	237

##### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	177
--	-----

##### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

###### (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ... ..	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	47
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ... ..	46
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	2
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) *Milk Supply.*

Seven persons carry on the trade of distributors of milk in the district and five premises are used as dairies. All are registered with this authority in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The table below shows the annual licences issued by this authority for the sale of designated milk :

#### *Dealer's Licences*

Tuberculin Tested (bottled at dairy) ... ..	3
Tuberculin Tested (received in bottles) ... ..	1
Pasteurised (received in bottles) ... ..	1
Sterilised (received in bottles) ... ..	1

### *Supplementary Licences*

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	1

In addition three dairies in the district hold licences granted by the County Council to pasteurise milk. One dairy pasteurises by the 'High Temperature Short Time' method and the other two by the 'Holder' method. After mid April, all milk retailed in the district was heat treated.

Numerous inspections of dairies were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

During the year 111 samples of milk were taken and were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :

Number of Samples	Class of Milk	Satisfactory	Un- satisfactory	Percentage Satisfactory
64	Pasteurised	59	5	92.2 %
4	Tuberculin Tested	4	—	100. %
42	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	36	6	85.7 %
1	Sterilised	1	—	100 %

The majority of the samples were bottled milks taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

### *(b) Meat and Other Foods.*

The Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory carry out extensive slaughtering of pigs under the control of the Ministry of Food and the following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased or unsound and unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat is voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

An examination of the pigs is carried out by slaughter men during the course of slaughtering, i.e. incision of head and offal glands. Carcases showing any disease or abnormalities are detained along with their organs and brought to the attention of the Inspector whilst he is engaged on routine meat inspection.

This system of detention is the best that can be adopted, and obviates appointing a full-time meat inspector, working well in practice. One Sanitary Inspector is engaged for the equivalent of five afternoons per week on meat inspection at the Bacon Factory.

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ...	—	—	—	—	76,404
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	76,404
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	145
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	6,725
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- eases other than tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	9.00 %
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	28
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1,833
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	2.43 %

The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc., condemned :

	<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
28 Pig carcasses ...	...	3,479
Miscellaneous fores and collars ...	...	739
1,497 Pigs' heads and tongues ...	...	19,776
156 Pigs' plucks ...	...	909
422 Pigs' mesenteric fats ...	...	3,370

<i>Other Diseases</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
13 Pig carcasses .....	Fevered	1,606
29 Pig carcasses .....	Moribund or Dead	5,295
13 Pig carcasses .....	Septic Pneumonia	1,116
7 Pig carcasses .....	Septic Pericarditis	952
11 Pig carcasses .....	Septic Peritonitis	1,374
38 Pig carcasses .....	Generalised Œdema	1,349
13 Pig carcasses .....	Pyaemia	1,255
7 Pig carcasses .....	Jaundice	680
7 Pig carcasses .....	Pathological Emaciation	384
5 Pig carcasses .....	Swine Erysipelas	460
2 Pig carcasses .....	Extensive Bruising	384
Miscellaneous forequarters, hindquarters and collars .....		Abscesses, etc.
		536
80 Pigs' legs .....	Injury	1,147
219 Pigs' legs .....	Arthritis	795
15 Pigs' legs .....	Abscesses	172
Miscellaneous parts .....		Injury
		2,869
Miscellaneous parts .....		Abscesses
		299
Miscellaneous parts .....		Melanosis and Mammitis
		270
Miscellaneous parts .....		Œdema
		122
2,129 Pigs' plucks .....	Cirrhosis	12,794
3,429 Pigs' lungs .....	Congestions and Pneumonia	10,303
1,269 Pigs' kidneys .....	Cystic and Nephritis	337
1,146 Pigs' stomachs .....	Inflammation	3,011
		<hr/>
		75,777
		<hr/>

Total : 33 tons 16 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs.

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises. The following quantities of food stuffs were also found to be unsound and unfit for food, were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption :

<i>Meat from Butchers' Shops</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
2 Part hindquarters of beef .....	Internal Decomposition	163
2 Part hindquarters of beef .....	Injury	33
5 Part forequarters of beef .....	Injury	116
1 Part rump of beef .....	Tumour	35
1 Bovine head and tongue .....	Abscess	45
15 Pork pigs .....	Decomposition	563

			<i>lbs.</i>
1	Part side of pork	..... Abscess Contamination	65
30	Sheep's plucks	..... Decomposition	30
	Pork sausages	..... Decomposition	201
	Beef sausages	..... Decomposition	53½
	Pork trimmings	..... Decomposition	54

---

1,358½

Total : 12 cwts. 0 qrs. 14½ lbs.

<i>General</i>							<i>lbs.</i>
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	45½
Tinned lambs' livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Tinned ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Miscellaneous tinned meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	368
Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,420½
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	210

---

3,231¾

Total : 1 ton 8 cwt. 3 qrs. 11¾ lbs.

Grand Total of Foodstuffs condemned (all classes) :

80,367¼ lbs. or 35 tons. 17 cwts. 2 qrs. 7¼ lbs.

## ICE CREAM

Four premises are registered under the provision of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream and 75 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream. Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, and for the purposes of sampling, the results of which follow :

Grade 1	...	...	99	} Satisfactory
Grade 2	...	...	20	
Grade 3	...	...	9	} Unsatisfactory
Grade 4	...	...	6	

## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

1. There are 236 food premises in the area consisting of 54 grocers, 21 confectioners (sweets), 7 confectioners (cakes, etc.), 18 greengrocers, 4 fish friers, 4 fish mongers, 2 poulterers, 18 butchers, 42 restaurant kitchens, 9 food factories, 3 bake houses, 51 licensed premises and 3 warehouses, the latter being used for the storage of food only.
2. The following premises are registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, 17 butchers (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food), 1 butcher (for the pickling of meat), 1 fish-

monger (for the preservation of fish), 4 food factories (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food), 1 food factory (for the pickling or preservation of food).

Regarding ice cream the following are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, 26 grocers, 2 greengrocers, 29 confectioners (sweets), 10 restaurants and 2 dairies. There are also 4 premises registered under the above enactment for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

Five dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

3. Regarding inspection of food premises see pages 19 and 20.
4. Condemned food is disposed of at the premises of the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory where it is processed in a digester plant.
5. The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for the preparation, sale, etc., of food.

#### *Washing Facilities.*

Number of new wash-hand basins provided ... ..	34
Number of new sinks provided ... ..	16
Number of fittings provided with running hot and cold water ... ..	52
Number of trapped waste pipes provided ... ..	41
Number of new draining boards provided ... ..	16

#### *Structural Work.*

Number of rooms where walls repaired or improved	26
Number of rooms where ceilings repaired or improved	28
Number of rooms where floor repaired or improved	27
Number of rooms where walls decorated ... ..	156
Number of rooms where ceilings decorated ... ..	152
Number of rooms where woodwork decorated ... ..	148
Number of rooms where new floor coverings provided	16

#### *Equipment.*

Number of premises where new equipment provided	21
Number of premises where new counter tops installed	11
Number of premises where new shop fronts provided	3
Number of premises where refrigerated display cabinets provided ... ..	1
Number of premises where glass screening provided	31

#### *Food Hygiene.*

Number of new refrigerators provided ... ..	4
Number of premises where suitable overalls and head covering provided ... ..	3
Number of premises where sterilising agent provided	7
Number of premises where soap and towel provided	35
Other defects remedied ... ..	187



# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1953

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the  
Factories Act, 1937.

### PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. *Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authori- ties ... ..	26	43	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority	152	312	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	2	3	—	—
Total ...	180	358	—	—



2. *Cases in which defects were found.*

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred to H.M. In- spectors		Number of cases in which prose- cutions were insti- tuted
		Reme- died		H.M. In- spectors	H.M. In- spectors	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	3	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :						
(a) Insufficient ...	3	5	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	26	33	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences re- lating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	33	43	—	1	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 110 AND 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	Number of out- workers in August list required by Section 110(1)c	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Coun- cil	Number of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	Number of in- stances of work in un- whole- some prem- ises	No- tices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel making, etc. ...	24	1	—	—	—	—

ARNOTT PRODUCTIONS LIMITED, HITCHIN



